

Capitola mall murder FBI thinks Capitola killer told someone

By JOHN ROBINSON

Sentinel staff writer

11-15-90

CAPITOLA — FBI agents investigating the murder of Emily Shaw warn that anyone who shares the killer's dark secret may be in danger.

Using information provided by Capitola police, FBI experts have developed a psychological profile of the killer and speculate that he has told people close to him of the murder.

Shaw, a 78-year-old woman, was bludgeoned to death with a piece of firewood Aug. 27 at the Capitola Mall parking structure.

Several witness saw the killer before and after the murder, describing him as an 18- to 25- year-old white male with blond hair and blue eyes.

Witness reported the killer tried to put Shaw into her car. He told onlookers she was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and that such things happened all the time. As the people became suspicious, the killer fled with her purse into a nearby neighborhood.

FBI special agent Larry Ankrom said the high-risk nature of the crime indicates the murderer is criminally unsophisticated. The profile states the killer is likely to have a "precipitating stressor" or emotional tension that triggered the attack such as a fight with a loved one or any perceived hurt or rejection.

Typically, Ankrom said, there is someone who knows or suspects they know who is responsible for the crime. The person close to the killer would be aware of change in his behavior. Such behavior might include a withdrawal from others, either physically or emotionally; an increase or decrease in the killer's use of drugs or alcohol; leaving the area for a short period for seemingly legitimate reasons; keeping track of the investigation in the the media; making casual or offhanded remarks about the crime to friends; changes in physical appearance; or behaving in an agitated or nervous manner immediately after the assault.

Both police and the FBI believe that someone close to the killer knows about the crime. Should the right set of circumstances exist and something trigger the killer, he could strike out at the people close to him, the FBI warns.

A special hotline at 475-4433 has been set up to encourage people to come forward with information. The hotline will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Wednesday. "Emily trusted her friends and neighbors to be there for her when she needed them. We owe this to Emily and her family to find out who is responsible for her death," Capitola Police Chief Don Braunton said.

An \$11,000 reward has also been set up for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Shaw's killer. Anyone wishing to contribute to the rewarded fund can contact the Capitola Chamber of Commerce at 475-6522.